



DAVID SANDERS, PH.D.  
Director

**County of Los Angeles  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place -- Los Angeles, California 90020  
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**Board of Supervisors**

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June 14, 2006

TO: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chair Pro Tem  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe

FROM: David Sanders, Ph.D.   
Director

**APRIL 26, 2005 BOARD AGENDA ITEM # 22: REFUGIO PARA NIÑOS MONTHLY REPORT**

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) has been charged with providing monthly reports on the Refugio Foster Family Agency (Refugio) to the Board. In previous monthly reports, we assessed Refugio's level of compliance with their corrective action plan. In our April 2006 report, we reported Refugio's decision to terminate its contract with the County to provide foster care services. A copy of the letter to the Contract Administration Section within DCFS, Community Care Licensing (CCL) and Foster Care Rates Bureau initiating the process of terminating the Contract for convenience was provided to the Board with our April 2006 report. This report will focus on progress in addressing this issue.

**PLAN OF ACTION**

On May 8, 2006 Refugio's Executive Director, Gayle Thomas reported that as of this date there were no Los Angeles County children placed in foster homes certified by Refugio. It was also reported that the agency would be prepared to officially terminate its contract once all payments were finalized. Refugio's Executive Director reports that the agency has not officially surrendered its license to CCL until all the financial matters are resolved. In addition, the Orange County office would maintain operation with Orange County DCFS under their current license until the office is incorporated under



its new non-profit license and name. This process could be finalized by the end of June 2006. A copy of Refugio's letter is attached (Attachment 1).

### **COUNTY AND STATE CONSIDERATIONS**

**Fiscal obligations:** On May 16, 2006, Refugio's Chief Financial Officer reported that all the payments to the certified foster parents who transferred from Refugio to other Foster Family Agencies had been finalized and all the financial matters had been resolved. Therefore, there were no fiscal obligations.

**Termination of LA County Contract and Relinquishment of License with the State of California:** On May 23, 2006, the Contract Administration Section within DCFS reported that a letter to the Board of Supervisors is in progress, in order to terminate Refugio's Contract with DCFS.

On May 16, 2006, Community Care Licensing reported that although Refugio submitted a notice of intention to terminate, the agency's license could not be revoked until Refugio submits a letter of notification that the agency is completely out of business.

**Refugio's certified homes and foster children:** As of May 8, 2006, Refugio has no certified foster parents and/or DCFS children under its supervision.

### **CONCLUSION**

At this time, Refugio's date of official closure is uncertain. Although, there are no certified foster parents and/or Los Angeles County placed children under Refugio's supervision, Refugio has not officially surrendered its license to CCL and its Contract has not been terminated. We will update the Board in a final report, which will be submitted by the end of this month, as to Refugio's progress to terminate its County Contract with our Contract Administration Section, and termination or relinquishment of licensure with Community Care Licensing.

If you have any questions please call me, or your staff may contact Helen Berberian, Board Relations Manager at (213) 351-5530.

DS:LP:ES:dv

Attachment

c: Chief Administrator Officer  
Auditor Controller  
County Counsel  
Board of Supervisors Executive Officer



## ATTACHMENT I

**Refugio Para Niños****Foster Family Agency****Dario Villamarin****Out of Home Care Management Division  
Fax Number 626 572-2363****May 8, 2006****Dear Dario,**

Per your request on Thursday, please accept this update of our current status:

We now have no Los Angeles County children in homes certified with our agency. The children in the home of Telma and Jose Salgado in Palmdale were terminated as of Thursday, May 4 according to CSW Ricardo Fernandez and his supervisor Jerry Clyde. The last four homes in San Bernadino County with Los Angeles County Children were decertified by us and certified by McKinley Children's Center on Friday, April 28, 2006.

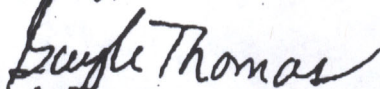
Our terminated children and foster parent files were delivered to CCL on Friday, April 28 for storage in Sacramento. Roland Navarro, CFO will remain active until deemed appropriate in our Orange County Office. The phone number there is 714 704-4545. I will also be available through that office as needed and may also be reached by cell phone at 626 695-0220.

Since we have no Los Angeles County children, I believe we will be prepared to officially terminate our contract once all payments are finalized. We have not officially surrendered our licenses to Community Care Licensing and would like to maintain such until we resolve all financial matters and the Board of Directors meets and to finalize any remaining business. In addition, the Orange County office will maintain operation with Orange County Department of Children's Services under their current license until they are successfully incorporated under their new non-profit license and name. This is in process. Both the West Covina and Rancho Cucamonga offices are vacated.

1820 W. Orangewood Ave., Ste. 210 • Orange, CA 92868 • Phone (714) 704-4545 • Fax (714) 704-4544

If you have any further questions for me, please feel free to contact me either on my cell phone or through the Orange County office at the number above. Norma can take a message for me.

Sincerely,

  
Gayle Thomas  
Executive Director